

**National Scenic and Historic Trails**

**Overview**

Since the enactment of the National Trails System Act in 1968, the Forest Service has designated trail coordinators or administrators for seven National Scenic and Historic Trails (NS&HT): Appalachian, Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo), Pacific Crest, and Pacific Northwest. In addition, the Forest Service manages portions of 15 additional NS&HTs on National Forest System (NFS) lands, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, State and County governments, and private entities. Funding for administration and management of these trails is included within the Capital Improvement and Maintenance - Trails budget line item. Acquisition of trail segments is included within the Land Acquisition budget line item.



Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT)

This 2,176-mile footpath crosses along the ridgecrests and across the major valleys of the Appalachian Mountains from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in northern Georgia. The trail traverses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia. The trail is used by day, weekend, and other short-term hikers, section-hikers, and through-hikers who hike the entire length of the trail in one season. The trail is currently protected along more than 99 percent of its course by Federal or State ownership or rights-of-way.

Arizona National Scenic Trail (ANST)

Designated on March 30, 2009 through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, the ANST extends 807 miles across the State of Arizona from the United States-Mexico border to the Arizona-Utah border. The national forests through which the trail runs have been working closely with the Arizona trails Association (ATA) in addressing construction needs to fill in gaps on the trail. The agency has established a trail Administrator position for the trail and is starting development of a comprehensive resource management plan.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT)

Designated on November 10, 1978, the CDT is a nationally significant resource providing long distance trail opportunities primarily for hiking and horseback riding recreationists. The trail's corridor links Federal, State, and private lands from Mexico to Canada, passing through 25 national forests, 3 national parks, 1 national monument, and 8 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office areas. When completed, the trail will be approximately 3,100 miles in length.

Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST)

Added to the national trails system in 1983, the FNST consists of 1,400 planned miles stretching from Big Cypress National Preserve to Gulf Islands National Seashore plus 254 miles of an officially designated side trail. The FNST is the only national scenic trail that gives the public the opportunity to experience a wide range of subtropical environments, karst spring and riverine systems, and a beach walk on a national seashore.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT)

In 1986 Congress acknowledged the significance of the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 by establishing the 1,170 mile NPNHT. The route winds through remote, rugged, and scenic terrain. While 865 miles of the trail is an automobile tour route, many miles are accessible only by foot and have changed very little in over a century.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

The PCT is a 2,650-mile congressionally designated trail that follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges from the Mexican to Canadian borders through California (CA), Oregon (OR), and Washington (WA). Established in 1968, the trail was completed in 1993 and lies within publicly owned lands except for approximately 300 miles where it crosses private lands (easements have been acquired for the trail tread). Over the past decade the PCT has become a favorite of thru-hikers and thru-riders (horseback) and each year an average of 300 hikers attempt to cover the full length of the trail.

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST)

Designated on March 30, 2009 through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, the PNNST consists of approximately 1,200 miles, extending from the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park, Montana, to the Pacific Ocean Coast in Olympic National Park, Washington. The PNNST travels through three national parks, seven national forests, six Washington State parks, three regions of the Washington Department of Natural Resources, land managed by the Idaho Department of Lands, and across land managed by a variety of other public and private land owners. A Trail Coordinator started work in FY 2011 and is working to assemble an interagency planning team to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan to guide future management and development of the PNT.

Other National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT)

There are an additional 15 national scenic and historic trails totaling over 6,700 miles for which the Forest Service coordinates management with other Federal public land agencies. These trails are: California, Camino Real Tejas, Camino Tierra Adentro, De Anza, Ice Age, Iditarod, Lewis and Clark, Mormon Pioneer, North Country, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Santa Fe, and Trail of Tears.

**FY 2011 – FY2013 Allocation by Trail (dollars in thousands)**

	FY 2011				FY 2012			FY 2013		
	Trails	Land Acq.	Partner*	Total	Trails	Land Acq.	Total	Trails	Land Acq.	Total
Appalachian	\$193	\$0	\$1,712	\$1,905	\$193	\$0	\$193	\$193	\$0	\$193
Arizona	175	0	748	923	175	0	175	175	0	175
Continental Divide	2,000	0	483	2,483	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	1,000	3,000
Florida	1,500	365	0	1,865	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
Nez Perce	640	0	0	640	640	0	640	640	0	640
Pacific Crest	2,000	0	2,420	4,420	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	3,000
Pacific Northwest	175	0	470	645	175	0	175	175	0	175
All-others**	822		268	1,090	822	0	822	822	0	822
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,505</b>	<b>\$365</b>	<b>\$5,949</b>	<b>\$13,971</b>	<b>\$7,505</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>\$7,505</b>	<b>\$7,505</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$9,505</b>

\* Estimated cash and in-kind contributions include other agency funds and non-profit contributions. Estimated contributions for FY 2012 and FY 2013 are not known at this time.

\*\* All others includes the following national scenic and historic trails: California, Camino Real Tejas, Camino Tierra Adentro, De Anza, Ice Age, Iditarod, Lewis and Clark, Mormon Pioneer, North Country, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Santa Fe, and Trail of Tears.

PCT includes proposed land acquisition funds for FY 12.

**Planned Program of Work**

For FY 2012 and FY 2013, we will continue to foster and expand partnerships, especially with those partners that involve volunteers and youth organizations. We will maintain and operate most trails, trailheads, and campgrounds through these efforts. We will also continue to deliver interpretative and educational programs and products.

Specific activities planned in FY 2012 are as follows:

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Appalachian Mountain Club, National Park Service, and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- *Green Mountain National Forest:* Restore and repair trails, trail bridges, and trailhead parking lots damaged by Hurricane Irene.
- *White Mountain National Forest:* Continue “Trail to Every Classroom” teacher trainings and partner with the National Park Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy to host one teacher under the “Teacher to Ranger to Teacher” program.

Arizona National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Arizona Trail Association, tribal governments and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- Conduct public outreach meetings as part of the development of the Comprehensive Management Plan and begin NEPA.
- Establish an Advisory Council with other agencies, partners and stakeholders.
- Construct 10.4 miles to fill the gaps for a complete connection across Arizona.
- Develop FS-AZNST website
- Rehabilitate 64 miles damaged by wildfires
- Develop mitigation measures for major mining impacts

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Continental Divide Trail Association, Colorado Trail Foundation, National Park Service, and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- Develop plans to locate the Trail (scouting and NEPA): 17 miles
- Survey and design trail projects: 27 miles
- Construction projects: 47 miles
- Reconstruction (deferred maintenance): 54 miles
- Publish high-quality map books for Montana/Idaho and Wyoming.
- Make progress towards meeting the requirements of the National Trails System Act

Florida National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Florida Trail Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- Develop partnership agreements in support of the Five Year Strategic Plan goals and objectives.
- Complete GPS line of FNST making it available on-line for download or through interactive partner websites.
- Go live with new FS-FNST and Florida Trail Association websites.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (Nee-Me-Poo)

*Partners:* Nez Perce Trail Foundation, National Park Service, Backcountry Horsemen of America, tribal governments and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- Continue work on revision of the Trail’s 1990 Comprehensive Management Plan.
- Convert four Auto Tour routes to Google Earth.

**Youth Crew Works on Weitas Puncheon Boardwalk on NPNHT**



In 2010, the crew started to tear out section of the puncheon bridge, a dirt path covered with a series of planks. They are rebuilding the structure to widen access, install hand rails, and make this portion of the Trail more accessible and horse-friendly. The crew finished the 390 foot bridge in 2011.

- Continue coordination with two national parks; four regions of the Forest Service including eight national forests; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Bureau of Land Management; State parks in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oklahoma; multiple chapters of Backcountry Horsemen of America; Tribal Governments; State and County Governments; and non-governmental organizations.
- Continue development of website.
- Continue NPNHT CCS Program to further leverage Federal dollars.
- Complete Auto Tour Brochures number six and eight.
- Continue to support the Nez Perce Trail Foundation to develop chapters and additional partnership/membership along the Trail.
- Develop teaching tools for the public to further emphasize and highlight the significance of the NPNHT.

#### Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Pacific Crest Trail Association, California Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, Student Conservation Association, Backcountry Horsemen of California, and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- Continue support and expansion of traditional skills training for volunteers and agency staff in CA, WA, and OR including crosscut saws and horse packing.
- Interdisciplinary team will develop planning for management of the PCT. The team will initially work on Forest Service direction but will collaborate with other Federal agencies to ensure integrated planning efforts.
- Continue coordination with 26 national forests, six national parks, CA State parks, Bureau of Land Management Lands (CA/OR), Warm Springs and Yakama Indian Reservations, three National Monuments and a National Scenic Area, and Manning Provincial Park (British Columbia).
- Complete an interagency/partner program review of corridor acquisition needs/strategy and easement management.
- Continue priority land acquisition work along the PCT Corridor. Outreach to Priority one and two parcels owners for the PCT in California to identify potential willing sellers.
- Coordinate with BLM and the Pacific Crest Trail Association on an Optimal Location Review of the PCT that includes the southern terminus.
- Develop webinar and teaching tools for agency staff and line officers on the PCT and management consideration. Continue website development.

#### Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Pacific Northwest Trail Association, tribal governments and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

- Continue development of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the trail to provide consistent policy and direction for trail development and management.
- Continue to increase the involvement of volunteers and the Service-Knowledge-Youth programs in the development and maintenance of the trail.
- Work with the University of Washington and Western Washington University to increase academic study and research on the trail and as part of the Comprehensive Management Plan development

- Develop plans for locating 60 miles, constructing 20 miles, reconstructing 42 miles, and maintaining 320 miles of trail.

#### Other National Scenic and Historic Trails

*Partners:* Numerous foundations, trail associations, tribal governments, and other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations.

*Ice Age Trail* – A major crossing of the South Fork of the Yellow River that has never had a bridge installed was reviewed by Forest Watershed Specialists, Engineers, and Recreation Planners. As a result of the findings a major re-route of the trail was proposed and awarded as a Resource Advisory Committee project. This project is being implemented in the spring of 2012 and consists of both partnership (Ice Age Trail Alliance) and forest funding. Combined contributions come to a total project cost of \$128,362.48 and will expand the length of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail by 0.9 of a mile.

*Lewis and Clark Trail* – Maintain and operate the trail, trailheads, interpretive sites, and three campgrounds (Lolo National Forest); monitor two historic sites along the trail (Lolo National Forest); and provide weed treatment along the trail and at access points.

*North Country Trail* –Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest: Continue planning work to remove blow down from major wind event. Continue to work with engineering staff to determine type of design of three bridges along the NCT. Hiawatha National Forest: Replace trail markers on Munising Ranger District. Replace approximately one mile of boardwalk across sensitive wetland areas in Chippewa County.

*Trail of Tears* – Develop interpretive plan (Touch the Trail) for southern Illinois Trail of Tears (Shawnee National Forest). Finalize and post Trail of Tears information to Mark Twain National Forest website (Mark Twain National Forest).

*Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT* – The Santa Fe National Forest is developing interpretive messages and signing, in collaboration with NPS, for La Bajada (considered the most geographically challenging section of trail near Santa Fe, NM). Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program recently added segments of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro to their archaeological site monitoring tasks.

*Old Spanish NHT* – The Carson and Rio Grande National Forests (Regions 3 & 2) have jointly funded a STEP education technician to focus on the *North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail in Northern New Mexico and the San Luis Valley of Colorado*. The education technician is developing, in partnership with local educators and the OST Assoc., education boxes and programs that meet both Colorado and New Mexico State competencies for use by local schools. She is also working closely with BLM's CMP Team to develop the trail's management direction.

*Iditarod National Historic Trail* – Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (ITREC!): The Forest Service is coordinating iTREC!, a multi-agency sponsored professional teacher training program. This highly successful program, now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, currently includes 28 trained and highly creative teachers that are reaching over 2,000 K-12 students through effective, sustained place-based service learning in schools and communities along the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

In addition to iTREC!, improvements continue on the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) including the following:

- ARRA Trail Construction/Reconstruction: Continued ARRA-funded contract work to construct/reconstruct 18 miles of the INHT, expected to be complete in FY 2012.
- Bridge Installation: Installed four bridges capable of accommodating snow mobiles and two major hiker/pedestrian bridges.
- Trailhead Construction: Completed the construction of one new INHT trailhead, including parking, toilet and interpretive kiosk.

**FY 2011 Program Accomplishments (dollars in thousands)**

Location	Volunteers		Cash Contributions	Miles of Trail Maintained	Miles of Trail Improved	Acres Acquired	Major Structures Constructed <sup>1</sup>
	Hours	In-kind Contributions					
Appalachian	82,113	\$1,753	\$145	1,031	26	0	10
Arizona	19,348	401	87	140	26	0	0
Continental Divide	21,296	465	18	784	112	0	1
Florida	56,700	1,211	0	1,077	17	73	4
Nez Perce	75,200	1,606	144	99	1.5	0	12
Pacific Crest	99,343	2,122	300	1,027	73	0	6
Pacific Northwest	26,000	542	262	240	90	0	5
Other	12,504	268	429	295	38	0	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>392,504</b>	<b>\$8,368</b>	<b>\$1,385</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>99</b>

<sup>1</sup> Major structures include bridges, kiosks, boardwalks, campgrounds, etc.

Other only includes accomplishments reporting from Trail of Tears, Ice Age, North Country, Old Spanish, Iditarod, and Camino Tierra Adentro.